

## M E D I A   A D V I S O R Y

**Contact:** Loree Levy  
Velessata Kelley  
(916) 654-9029

**Date:** March 20, 2006

**News Release No.:** 06-A08

### **INNOVATION CORRIDOR KICKS-OFF \$15 MILLION GRANT TO ADVANCE REGIONAL SPACE PROJECTS IN CALIFORNIA**

**WHAT:** The first steps in building a greater global competitive edge for California's space industry are being launched with a working visit from Emily DeRocco, U.S. Assistant Secretary of Labor for Employment and Training. The California Space Authority (CSA) and its Workforce Transformation proposal recently received a \$15 million WIRED (Workforce Innovation In Regional Economic Development) grant from the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL), one of 13 awarded in the nation. The Innovation Corridor project is aimed at producing more highly skilled technical workers and transforming the region's space enterprise to quickly turn technological innovations into commercial products.

**WHO:** Four speakers will address the need for workforce, entrepreneurial, and educational advancement in the space industry, and how the WIRED grant project will benefit workers and businesses in a 13 county region.

- Emily DeRocco, Assistant Secretary, Employment and Training Administration (ETA)
- Victoria Bradshaw, Secretary, CA Labor and Workforce Development Agency (LWDA)
- Andrea Seastrand, Executive Director, California Space Authority
- Dr. James Wertz, President, Microcosm, Inc.

**WHERE:** Microcosm, Inc.  
401 Coral Circle, El Segundo  
Microcosm is a small business specializing in the development of products that reduce the cost of space missions and launches to orbit.

**Available Visuals:** The press conference will be held on the integration and test floor where technicians are currently working on various components of the company's launch vehicle.

**WHEN:** Thursday, March 23, 2006, 9:45 – 10:30 a.m.  
(Time will be made available after the press conference for additional pictures and video of technicians at work.)

**WHY:** During a two-day meeting, DOL, LWDA, and the CSA along with representatives from 68 regional partners, will gather to discuss the 13 county Innovation Corridor initiative, determine technical assistance needs, and outline a six-month plan for launching innovation projects.

###